

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:
a search engine server having a first computer-readable medium containing information for a search provider's web page;
an advertiser server coupled to the search engine server and having a second computer-readable medium containing information for an advertiser's web page; and
a user computer coupled to the search engine server and the advertiser's server, the user computer having a monitor that is configured to display web pages;
wherein the search provider's web page, when displayed on the monitor, includes ads with each ad including a link to an advertiser's web page, where an advertiser is an entity whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page, and a position of each ad on the search provider's web page is dependent upon whether the search provider is due payment from the advertiser.
2. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 1, wherein the position of the ad on the search provider's web page is dependent upon whether a link included in an ad has received a predetermined number of clicks within a predetermined period of time.
3. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 1, wherein:
a sponsor is an advertiser that has a financial agreement with the search provider regarding the inclusion of the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web page;
a non-sponsor is an advertiser whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page free of charge; and
non-sponsors' ads are displayed in a region of the search provider's web page below another region of the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

4. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 3, wherein the search provider is due a fee from a sponsor every time a user selects a link associated with the sponsor's ad displayed on the search provider's web page.
5. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 3, wherein the sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle.
6. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 5, wherein a location where the sponsor's ad is displayed on the search provider's web page is influenced by a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.
7. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 6, wherein the sponsor's ad is located within the region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad equals the cap amount.
8. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 5, wherein the sponsor can change the cap amount.
9. (Withdrawn) A first computer-readable medium included in a search engine server, wherein the first computer-readable medium contains a program configured to interact with a database stored in a second computer-readable medium also included in the search engine server, wherein the search engine server is configured to couple to an advertiser server having a third computer-readable medium containing information for an advertiser's web page, and wherein the search engine server is configured to couple to a user computer having a monitor that is configured to display a web page, the program comprising information used to generate a search provider's web page, wherein:

the search provider's web page is displayed on the monitor and includes ads that are stored in the database, with each ad including a link to an advertiser's web page, where an advertiser is an entity whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page, and a sponsor is an advertiser that has a financial agreement with the search provider regarding the inclusion of the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web page;

the search provider is due a fee from the sponsor every time a user selects a link included in the sponsor's ad displayed on the search provider's web page;

the sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle; and

a location where the sponsor's ad is displayed on the search provider's web page is influenced by a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.

10. (Withdrawn) The program according to claim 9, wherein:
a non-sponsor is an advertiser whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page free of charge; and

non-sponsors' ads are displayed in a region of the search provider's web page below another region of the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

11. (Withdrawn) The program according to claim 10, wherein the sponsor's ad is located within a region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad equals the cap amount.

12. (Withdrawn) The program according to claim 9, wherein the sponsor can change the cap amount.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for organizing ads on a search provider's web page, wherein information related to the search provider's web page is stored in a first computer-readable medium included in a search engine server, wherein the information related to the search provider's web page is configured to interact with advertiser information in an advertiser database stored in a second computer-readable medium that also is included in the search engine server, wherein an advertiser is an entity having an ad that is displayed on the search provider's web page, wherein the search engine server is configured to couple to an advertiser server having a third computer-readable medium containing information for an advertiser's web page, wherein the search engine server is configured to couple to a user computer having a monitor that is configured to display a web page, and wherein each sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle, the method comprising:

performing a category search using the search engine server for ads included in the advertiser database;

creating a list of sponsors' ads based on results of the category search; and
positioning the sponsors' ads on the search provider's web page based on a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

calculating a geographic region of consideration; and
removing all sponsor ads from the list of sponsors' ads when the respective sponsor's business location is outside of the geographic region of consideration.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the geographic region of consideration is a circle having a center point and a radius, and the radius is multiplied by a market multiplier factor that varies as a function of a location of the center point.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
calculating a pacing factor; and

comparing a random number, having a value between zero and one, to the pacing
factor for each sponsor's ad and displaying the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web
page only if the pacing factor is greater than the random number.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, further comprising sorting the
sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's web page
according to the cost-per-click multiplied by the click-through rate associated with each
sponsor's ad.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:
calculating a sorting factor; and
sorting the sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's
web page according to the sorting factor.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein a non-sponsor is an
advertiser whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page free of charge.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, further comprising displaying
non-sponsors' ads in a region of the search provider's web page below another region of
the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, further comprising positioning
the sponsor's ad within a region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads
when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's
ad equals the cap amount.

22. (New) A computer system comprising:
at least one processor;
a medium connected to the processor; and
a set of data on the medium and being at least readable by the processor, the set of data including:

advertiser payment information;
a query receiving module to receive a search query over a network from a user computer system;
geographic data of a location;
a mapping module to map the query to at least one sales category among a plurality of sales categories;
an advertiser data store including a plurality of advertiser entries;
a search engine to extract a plurality of search result from the advertiser entries based on the sales category and the geographic location data;
a ranking module to rank the search results based on at least the advertiser payment information into a ranked set of search results; and
a transmission module to transmit the set of ranked search results over a network to the user computer system, each one of the ranked search results including a link to retrieve a respective advertiser web page over a network from a respective advertiser computer system utilizing the user computer system.

23. (New) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the ranking is dependent upon whether a link included in an ad has received a predetermined number of clicks within a predetermined period of time.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 22 wherein a sponsor is an advertiser that has a financial agreement with the search provider regarding the inclusion of the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web page, a non-sponsor is an advertiser whose ad is displayed on the search provider's web page free of charge; and non-sponsors' ads are displayed in a

region of the search provider's web page below another region of the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the search provider is due a fee from a sponsor every time a user selects a link associated with the sponsor's ad displayed on the search provider's web page.

26. (New) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle.

27. (New) The computer system of claim 26 wherein a location where the sponsor's ad is displayed on the search provider's web page is influenced by a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 27 wherein the sponsor's ad is located within the region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad equals the cap amount.

29. (New) The computer system of claim 27 wherein the sponsor can change the cap amount.

30. (New) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the advertiser data determines which search results are extracted by the search engine.

31. (New) The computer system of claim 22 further comprising: a geo-location module that determines a location of the user computer system.

32. (New) The computer system of claim 31 further comprising: a geo-location module calculating a geographic region of consideration, and removing all sponsor ads from the list of sponsors' ads when the respective sponsor's business location is outside of the geographic region of consideration.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the geographic region of consideration is a circle having a center point and a radius, and the radius is multiplied by a market multiplier factor that varies as a function of a location of the center point.

34. (New) A computer-based method comprising:
storing advertiser information on a medium;
storing geographic data of a location on the medium;
storing a plurality of advertiser entries on the medium;
receiving a search query over a network from a user computer system;
mapping the query to at least one sales category among a plurality of sales categories;
operating a search engine to extract a plurality of search result from the advertiser entries based on the sales category and the geographic location data;
rank the search results based on at least the advertiser payment information into a ranked set of search results; and
transmitting the set of ranked search results over a network to the user computer system, each one of the ranked search results including a link to retrieve a respective advertiser web page over a network from a respective advertiser computer system utilizing the user computer system.

35. (New) The computer-based method of claim 34 wherein the ranking is dependent upon whether a link included in an ad has received a predetermined number of clicks within a predetermined period of time.

36. (New) The computer-based method of claim 34 further comprising: displaying non-sponsors' ads in a region of the search provider's web page below another region of the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

37. (New) The computer-based method of claim 36 wherein the search provider is due a fee from a sponsor every time a user selects a link associated with the sponsor's ad displayed on the search provider's web page.

38. (New) The computer-based method of claim 37 wherein the sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle.

39. (New) The computer-based method of claim 38 wherein a location where the sponsor's ad is displayed on the search provider's web page is influenced by a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.

40. (New) The computer-based method of claim 39 wherein the sponsor's ad is located within the region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad equals the cap amount.

41. (New) The computer-based method of claim 39 wherein the sponsor can change the cap amount.

42. (New) The computer-based method of claim 34 wherein the advertiser data determines which search results are extracted by the search engine.

43. (New) The computer-based method of claim 34 further comprising:
calculating a pacing factor; and
comparing a random number, having a value between zero and one, to the pacing
factor for each sponsor's ad and displaying the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web
page only if the pacing factor is greater than the random number.

44. (New) The computer-based method of claim 43 further comprising sorting the
sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's web page
according to the cost-per-click multiplied by the click-through rate associated with each
sponsor's ad.

45. (New) The computer-based method of claim 44 further comprising:
calculating a sorting factor; and
sorting the sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's
web page according to the sorting factor.

46. (New) The computer-based method of claim 34 further comprising: a geo-location
module that determines a location of the user computer system.

47. (New) The computer-based method of claim 46 further comprising: a geo-location
module calculating a geographic region of consideration, and removing all sponsor ads
from the list of sponsors' ads when the respective sponsor's business location is outside of
the geographic region of consideration.

48. (New) The computer-based method of claim 47 wherein the geographic region of
consideration is a circle having a center point and a radius, and the radius is multiplied by a
market multiplier factor that varies as a function of a location of the center point.

49. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of data that is at least readable by a processor of a computer to execute a method comprising:

- storing advertiser information on a medium;
- storing geographic data of a location on the medium;
- storing a plurality of advertiser entries on the medium;
- receiving a search query over a network from a user computer system;
- mapping the query to at least one sales category among a plurality of sales categories;
- operating a search engine to extract a plurality of search result from the advertiser entries based on the sales category and the geographic location data;
- rank the search results based on at least the advertiser payment information into a ranked set of search results; and
- transmitting the set of ranked search results over a network to the user computer system, each one of the ranked search results including a link to retrieve a respective advertiser web page over a network from a respective advertiser computer system utilizing the user computer system.

50. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 wherein the ranking is dependent upon whether a link included in an ad has received a predetermined number of clicks within a predetermined period of time.

51. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 further comprising: displaying non-sponsors' ads in a region of the search provider's web page below another region of the search provider's web page where sponsors' ads are displayed.

52. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the search provider is due a fee from a sponsor every time a user selects a link associated with the sponsor's ad displayed on the search provider's web page.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the sponsor's ad has associated with it a cap amount that is the maximum amount of money that a sponsor can be billed by the search provider for the sponsor's ad within a billing cycle.

54. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein a location where the sponsor's ad is displayed on the search provider's web page is influenced by a difference between the cap amount and a total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad.

55. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 54 wherein the sponsor's ad is located within the region of the search provider's web page with non-sponsors' ads when the total accrued debt owed by the sponsor to the search provider for the sponsor's ad equals the cap amount.

56. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 54 wherein the sponsor can change the cap amount.

57. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 wherein the advertiser data determines which search results are extracted by the search engine.

58. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 further comprising:
calculating a pacing factor; and
comparing a random number, having a value between zero and one, to the pacing factor for each sponsor's ad and displaying the sponsor's ad on the search provider's web page only if the pacing factor is greater than the random number.

59. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 58 further comprising sorting the sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's web page

according to the cost-per-click multiplied by the click-through rate associated with each sponsor's ad.

60. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 59 further comprising:
 - calculating a sorting factor; and
 - sorting the sponsors' ads and displaying the sponsors' ads on the search provider's web page according to the sorting factor.
61. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 further comprising: a geo-location module that determines a location of the user computer system.
62. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 61 further comprising: a geo-location module calculating a geographic region of consideration, and removing all sponsor ads from the list of sponsors' ads when the respective sponsor's business location is outside of the geographic region of consideration.
63. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 62 wherein the geographic region of consideration is a circle having a center point and a radius, and the radius is multiplied by a market multiplier factor that varies as a function of a location of the center point.